

REMARKS

A Petition for a Two-Month Extension of time to respond to the Office Action is submitted herewith. Claims 1-9 and 30-75 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 6, 9, 52, 60, and 68 are in independent form. Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for any fees due in connection with this response.

The Office Action rejected all pending claims under 35 U.S.C. §101 because “machine-execution being considered as transmission media (see specification page 0058), see MPEP 2106.” Applicant does not understand this rejection. After careful analysis of MPEP §2106, the Applicant is not able to locate any mention of “machine-execution”, “execution”, “transmission”, or “media”. Paragraph 0058 of the present specification merely indicates that an example system for practicing the present invention may communicate with other electronic devices via signal I/O ports. Each independent claim is hereby amended to remove any “machine executed” language in order to address the Examiner’s apparent objection. Favorable reconsideration is hereby requested.

The Office Action also rejected all pending claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) based on *Budzik* (“User Interactions with Everyday Applications as Context for Just-in-time Information Access”). Independent claims 1, 6, and 9 are hereby amended to include, inter alia, “computing a statistical value indicative of a number of occurrences of the at least one stylistic attribute in the active computer task” and “for each of the plurality of text items, assigning a weight based on the statistical value and the at least one stylistic attribute”. Similarly, new independent claims 52, 60, and 68 include, inter alia, “computing a statistical value indicative of a number of occurrences of the at least one field attribute in the active computer task” and “for each of the plurality of text items,

assigning a weight based on the statistical value and the at least one field attribute". No new matter has been added by way of these amendments. For example, support for these amendments may be found in the specification at paragraphs 042, 063 – 067, 085 – 087, 089, 095, and 096.

As claimed, the present invention includes "an adaptive weighting method". For example, the active computer task may be a web page, and the statistical value may be the percentage of bold words in that web page. If the web page includes a relatively low percentage of bold words (e.g., 1%), bold words may be given a relatively high weight. However, if the web page includes a relatively high percentage of bold words (e.g., 25%), bold words may be given a relatively low weight. In another example, the active computer task may be a thread of email messages, and the statistical value may be the number of signature blocks in that email exchange (e.g., one signature block after each back and forth between several parties). If the email thread includes a relatively low number of signature blocks (e.g., 1), the words in the signature blocks may be given a relatively high weight. However, if the email thread includes a relatively high number of signature blocks (e.g., 10), the words in the signature blocks may be given a relatively low weight.

Budzik fails to teach the adaptive weight system currently claimed. *Budzik* teaches a fixed weighting system. In *Budzik*, the weight given to a term is simply doubled if the term is emphasized (e.g., bolded) regardless of how much of that type of emphasis is present in the active computer task (see line 9 of weighting algorithm pseudo code in Figure 4 and the second to the last paragraph of section 4.1, which states "If a term is emphasized, its preliminary weight is double the original preliminary

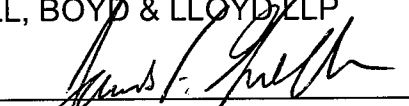
weight.”) In addition, *Budzik* does not teach the use of fields (e.g., email sender field, email recipient field, signature field, and salutation field) as a weighting criteria.

Accordingly, all pending claims are condition for allowance, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance, and in the absence of more pertinent art, such action is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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